

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

VNI COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

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ALLEGED FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH KRS  
278.140 AND KRS 278.230(3)

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) CASE NO. 94-372  
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O R D E R

On October 11, 1994, the Commission ordered VNI Communications, Inc. ("VNI Communications") to show cause why it should not be penalized for its alleged failure to comply with KRS 278.140 and 278.230(3). A hearing in this matter was held on November 7, 1994. Neither VNI Communications nor its representative appeared.

Having reviewed the evidence of record and being otherwise sufficiently advised, the Commission finds that:

1. VNI Communications owns, controls, operates, and manages facilities in the Commonwealth of Kentucky which are used for and in connection with the transmission or conveyance of messages by telephone for the public for compensation. It is therefore a utility subject to Commission jurisdiction. KRS 278.010(3)(e).

2. KRS 278.140 requires every utility, on or before March 31 of each year, to file with the Commission a report of its gross earnings or receipts derived from intrastate business for the preceding calendar year.

3. KRS 278.230(3) directs every utility to file with the Commission any report or other information that the Commission reasonably requires.

4. Commission Regulation 807 KAR 5:006, Section 3(1), requires every utility to file with the Commission on or before March 31 of each year a financial and statistical report of its utility operations for the preceding calendar year on forms furnished by the Commission.

5. On or about January 2, 1993, the Commission mailed to VNI Communications two copies of its standard forms for report of gross earnings derived from intrastate business and for the annual financial and statistical report with a letter of instruction to complete the forms for its 1993 calendar year operations.

6. VNI Communications did not file these reports for its 1993 calendar year operations nor did it request an extension of time in which to make such filing.

7. On April 11, 1994, the Commission mailed a letter to VNI Communications which advised it that the required reports were past due.

8. Commission Staff subsequently contacted VNI Communications officials by telephone and advised that the required reports were past due.

9. As of the date of this Order, VNI Communications has not filed a report of gross earnings derived from intrastate business nor an annual financial and statistical report for its 1993 calendar year operations.

10. On October 12, 1994, VNI Communications was served with a copy of the Commission's Order of October 11, 1994 by certified mail.

11. Where the act which a utility is required to do is merely clerical in nature, willfulness or deliberate intent can be inferred from the fact of noncompliance. See Re Dyke Water Company, 55 PUR3d 342 (Cal. P.U.C. 1964).

12. VNI Communications has willfully failed to submit reports required by KRS 278.140.

13. VNI Communications has willfully failed to submit reports required by Commission Regulation 807 KAR 5:006, Section 3(1).

14. VNI Communications has willfully failed to comply with KRS 278.230(3).

15. VNI Communications should be assessed a penalty of \$250 for its willful failure to comply with KRS 278.140 and KRS 278.230(3).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:


1. VNI Communications is assessed a penalty of \$250 for its willful violation of KRS 278.140 and 278.230(3).

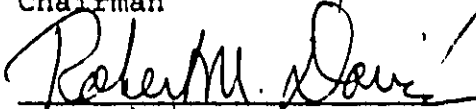
2. VNI Communications shall pay the assessed penalty within 20 days of the date of this Order. Payment shall be made by certified check or money order made payable to "Treasurer, Commonwealth of Kentucky" and shall be mailed or delivered to the Office of General Counsel, Public Service Commission of Kentucky, 730 Schenkel Lane, P. O. Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602.

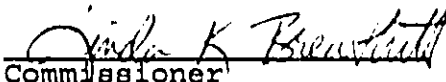
3. Within 20 days of the date of this Order, VNI Communications shall file with the Commission a completed report of its gross earnings derived from intrastate business for 1993 and a completed annual report for its 1993 calendar year operations.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 9th day of February, 1995.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

  
Chairman

  
Vice Chairman

  
Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director